

## REMARKS

The Examiner has imposed a restriction requirement between claims 1-6 and 13 drawn to an adhesive material (denoted Group I by the Examiner), claims 7-10 and 24, drawn to the process of producing the adhesive (denoted Group II by the Examiner) and claims 11-12, drawn to an adhesive tape.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested. Any search of the adhesive itself is certain to include a search of the process for making it, and an adhesive tape using it and any search of the process and tape would also turn up the adhesive itself. Accordingly, no additional burden would be placed on the Patent Office in searching all three groups together. By contrast, a very great burden will be placed on Applicant if this restriction requirement is maintained. Applicant will be subjected to three times the cost and effort in prosecuting three patent applications for an invention that should have been included in one, and will also be subjected to the continuing expense of maintaining three separate patents, whereas only one should be required to cover the full invention.

In addition, an additional burden will be placed on the public, in that the full scope of Applicant's invention will not be ascertainable from a single patent, and the public will have to find and study three separate patents to ascertain the full scope of Applicant's exclusive rights.

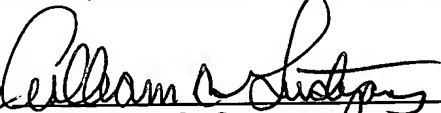
The great additional burden that will be placed on Applicant and the public in maintaining the restriction requirement is far greater than the slight, if any, inconvenience that will be placed on the Patent Office in withdrawing the restriction requirement.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

In the event that the Examiner does not find it possible to withdraw the Restriction Requirement, it is respectfully requested that the non-elected subject matter be rejoined with the elected subject-matter upon allowance of elected subject-matter.

Respectfully submitted,

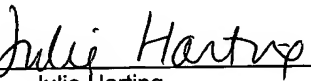
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By   
Julie Harting  
Date July 10, 2003